

REMARKS

In this paper, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17 and 21. Additionally, pages 8, 11, 12 and 16 of the specification have been amended.

Claims 1-21 are pending. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Paragraphs [42] (starting on page 8, line 11 of the specification) and [55] (starting on page 11, line 13 of the specification) have been amended to recite quantitative measurements. Support for the added material can be found, for example, in Figure 24 of provisional application 60/417,844, the complete disclosure of which was incorporated by reference in the application. The specific recitation of 28 5/8 inches for the maximum distance between internal stiles is seen at the bottom of the inside plan view of the illustrated door in Figure 24. The specific recitation of 34 3/8 inches for the maximum distance between an internal stile and the outside of the side stile is arrived at by adding 29 7/8 (the maximum distance between an internal stile and a hinge) and 4 1/2 inches (the distance from the centerline of the hinge and the outside of the side stile). These specifics are seen at the bottom right of the inside plan view of the illustrated door.

Paragraphs [60] (starting on page 12, line 4 of the specification), [62] (starting on page 12, line 17 of the specification) and [80] (starting on page 16, line 23 of the specification) have been amended to correct grammatical errors.

Independent claims 1, 7, 13, 17 and 21 have been amended to more clearly define the internal frame structure. These amendments better direct the resulting door to be able to withstand a 140 mph wind load and pressure of +48 psf and -65 psf. Additionally, dependent claims 5 and 11 have been amended to more clearly define the internal frame structure of subsequent panels.

Specification

The Office Action indicates that on page 12, reference numeral 52 was used to denote multiple elements. Page 12 has been amended to correct that the jamb mount is 51. As for reference numeral 52, it is used to represent the mounting bracket, which is a gusseted mounting bracket.

102 Rejection

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,402,457 to Landow et al. Applicant disagrees.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to better define the internal frame structure as having a top rail and a bottom rail, two side stiles and a first internal stile and at least a second internal stile, with each of the stiles extending between the top rail and the bottom rail. The maximum centerline distance between the first internal stile and the at least second stile is 28 5/8 inches. These amendments better direct the resulting door to being able to withstand a 140 mph wind load and pressure of +48 psf and -65 psf. Additionally, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify that the first and second wood surface layers extend to and cover the frame. Such a construction, where the layers cover the frame so that the frame is not exposed to the elements, improves the resistance to weather.

Claims 5 and 11 are dependent off from independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, and recite that the door of the independent claim includes at least three panels. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended, in addition to being dependent from claims 1 and 7, to recite that the subsequent panels have the same construction as the first panel.

Landow et al. does not disclose a structure as now recited by claims 1, 5, 7 and 11. Landow et al. does provide an overhead door comprising a plurality of panels, each having a frame and plywood panels. Each frame has an upper and lower rail and can have three vertical bars or frame pieces. The frame is rabbeted so that the plywood seats within the rabbeted portion. See for example FIGs. 4 and 5. Landow et al. does not disclose a maximum distance between internal frame pieces (stiles), and does not disclose that the outer layers cover the frame. Indeed, Landow et al. teaches away from covering the frame, by having the frame rabbeted and the outer layer seated within the frame.

Applicants disagree with the contention that the structure of Landow et al. is capable of withstanding a 140 mph wind load and withstanding pressure of +48 psf and -65 psf. Landow et al. provides a flush door for its aesthetic purposes. There is no indication in the disclosure that the door was designed to be able to withstand such high loads and pressures. Additionally, one skilled in the art of door construction recognizes that the techniques used in Landow et al. do not provide a door capable of withstanding the recited conditions. For example, the corrugated fasteners 44 used by Landow et al. are not capable of provided the needed strength and rigidity

needed in order to withstand the recited conditions. This argument is moot, however, due to the structure differences between the claimed doors and those of Landow et al.

At least for the reasons provided above, Applicants contend that claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 are not anticipated by Landow et al., and Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

103 Rejections

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Landow et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,178,776 to Stansberry. Claims 13-15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Landow et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,799 to Mullet et al. Claims 16, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Landow et al. in view of Mullet et al. and further in view of Stansberry.

Each of the rejections is based on Landow et al. in combination with secondary references. Landow et al. and the differences between the claimed doors and Landow et al. have been discussed above. There is no suggestion in Landow et al. of having the structure of the pending claims. The pending claims are directed to storm resistant design, which is resistant to weather and able to withstand a 140 mph wind load and pressure of +48 psf and -65 psf. The strength of the doors is provided by the specific, engineered construction of the door.

Applicants do not disagree that Stansberry discloses providing an ornamental panel member or a framed glass panel in a door. There is no suggestion in Stansberry, however, of having the structure of the pending claims, which provides a storm resistant design, which is resistant to weather and able to withstand a 140 mph wind load and pressure of +48 psf and -65 psf.

Applicants also do not disagree that Mullet et al. discloses a door having roller members guided in a track. There is no suggestion in Mullet et al., however, of having the structure of the pending claims, which provides a storm resistant design, which is resistant to weather and able to withstand a 140 mph wind load and pressure of +48 psf and -65 psf.

Even with the references of Landow et al., Stansberry and Mullet et al. combined, one does not arrive at the invention of the pending claims, that of various structures configured to withstand weather and able to withstand a 140 mph wind load and pressure of +48 psf and -65 psf, due to the construction of the door panels. The disclosures and combined disclosure of these references does not suggest to one skilled in the art of how to arrive at the recited structures. At

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Amendment dated Jan. 26, 2005
• *Reply to Office Action of Sept. 29, 2004*

least for these reasons, Applicants contend that the pending claims are patentable over Landow et al., Stansberry, Mullet et al. and any combination thereof, and request that the rejections be withdrawn.

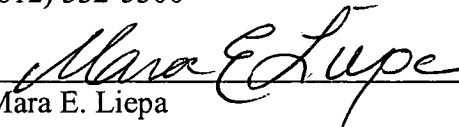
SUMMARY

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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